

INFORMATION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

SUBJECT Soviet Military Bank Takes Over
Liquid Assets of USIA Firm

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1. The Soviet Military Bank recently ordered "Vertrieb von Baumaterialien", Vienna IV, Argentinierstrasse 26, a Soviet-controlled firm administered by USIA's Construction and Building Materials Administration, to turn over all of its liquid assets in the form of a draft to the Bank within a period of 24 hours. "Vertrieb von Baumaterialien" promptly transferred assets valued at a total of 2,300,000 Austrian schillings to the Soviet Military Bank. The following day, this USIA firm was forced to borrow at a 3.5 per cent rate of interest a total of 600,000 schillings which it required to meet current financial obligations.
2. It is reported that almost all of the Austrian firms now controlled by the Soviets have been forced to surrender their liquid assets to the Soviet Military Bank.

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[REDACTED] Austrian businessmen have not yet discerned the reasons behind this order.

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